CONSIDERATIONS
ON THE
PRESENT STATE
OF THE
POOR IN GREAT-BRITAIN.

[Price One Shilling.]

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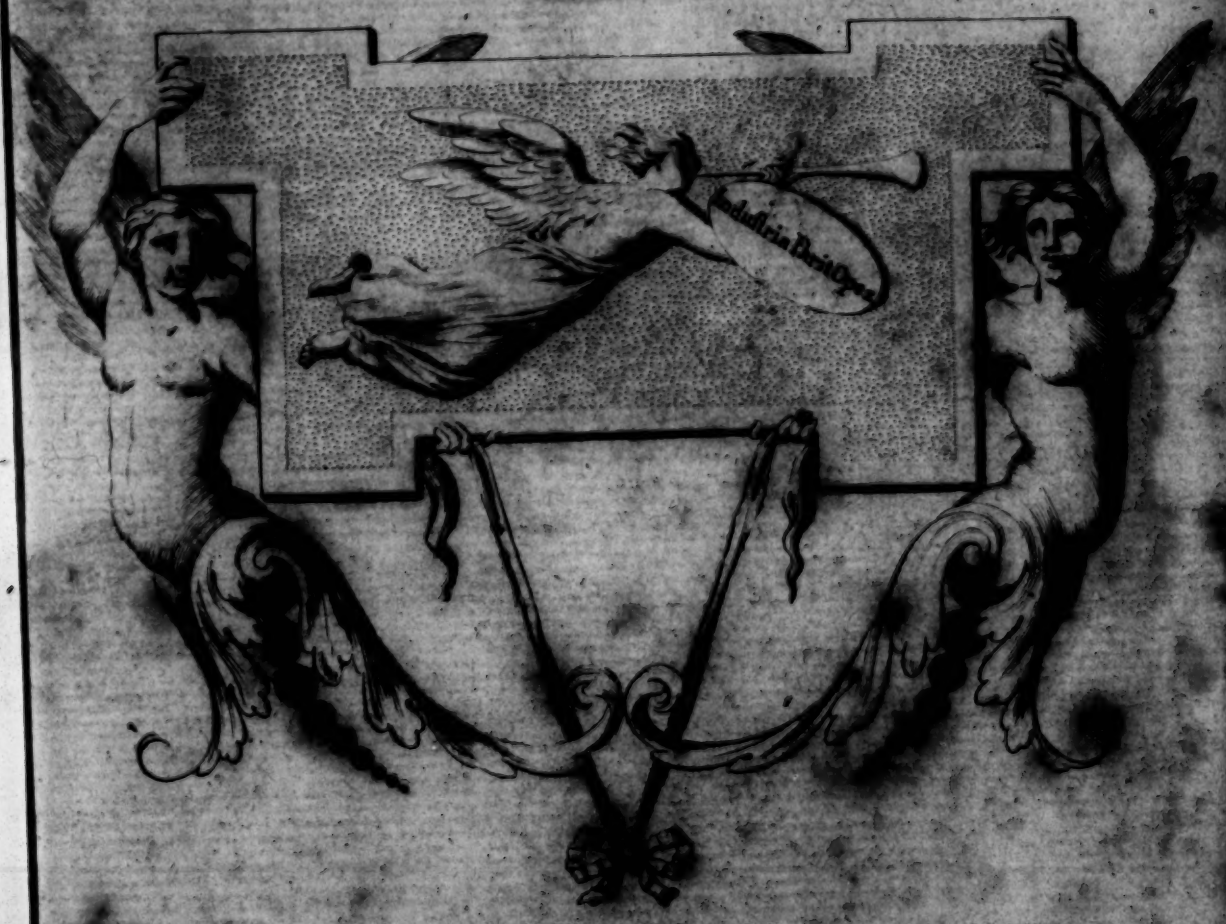

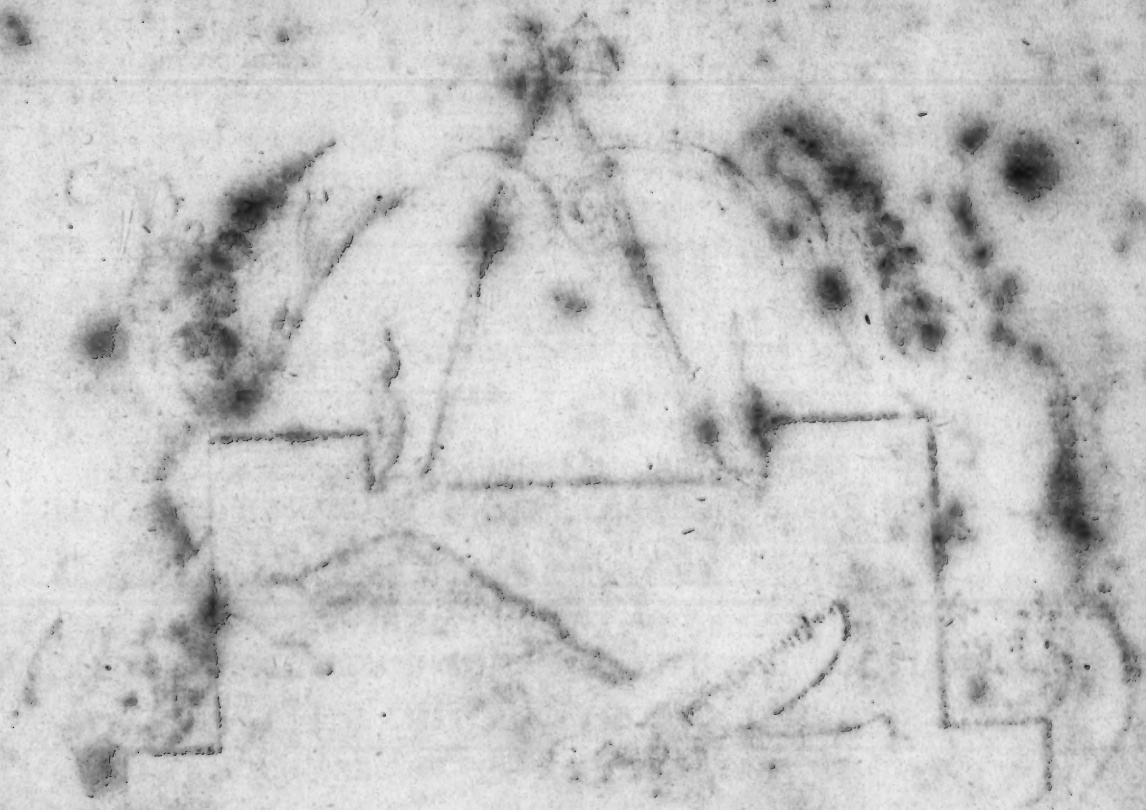

A
BOOK
OF
CONSIDERATIONS

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE

OF THE

POOR

IN

GREAT-BRITAIN.

WITH

PROPOSALS

FOR MAKING THE MOST EFFECTUAL PROVISION FOR THEM.

WHICH WILL BE ATTENDED

WITH THIS GREAT ADVANTAGE,

THE PRESENT ENORMOUS POOR's RATES MUST OF COURSE BE GREATLY REDUCED,

AND THAT IN A VERY SHORT TIME.

THE WHOLE MOST RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PARLIAMENT.

What's beſt adminiſter'd, is beſt.

POPE.

LONDON:

Printed by J. DELEGAL, No. 11, Great Wincheſter-ſtreet; and Sold by Mr. JAMES DODSLEY, Pall-Mall; Mr. PETER ELMSLEY, in the Strand; Mr. WILLIAM DAVENHILL, in Cornhill; Mr. JOHN WILKIE, in St. Paul's Church-Yard; and Meſſrs. DILLY, in the Poultry. For the Benefit of the *Aſylum*.

M DCC LXXV.

" AS obſtructions to the free circulation of the animal " fluids in the natural body will diſorder thoſe parts " thus deprived of proper nouriſhment, and render them " incapable of their proper functions; ſo partial laws, " and an unceaſing accumulation of taxes, muſt have " ſimular effects on the political body. *Thoſe* who beſt " know the diſeaſe, and the proper remedies for it, are " leaſt willing to undertake a radical cure, finding it muſt " be performed at their *expence*. Hence we are furniſhed " only with palliatives to moderate the ſymptoms, inſtead " of antidotes that reach the latent cauſes of our political " complaints. If proviſions increaſe in prices, monopo- " lizers and engroſſers are guarded againſt as the enemies " of the public; while few extend their obſervations to " the rapacity and profuſion of thoſe who conduct our " ſtate affairs, in this point of view, becauſe they do not " immediately deal in bread, cheeſe, and bacon; if the " numbers of deſtitute poor increaſe, we conſult how " they are to be maintained in the beſt manner, inſtead " of eaſing the heavy burdens impoſed on them, under " which they ſink; and inſtead of paying a due regard to " their morals, on which their ſobriety and induſtry ſo " much depend. But ſuch maxims are now as remote " from practice as thoſe of Sir *Thomas More*'s *Utopia*.

" The common people, who are the ſtrength of the " nation, are decreaſing very faſt in *Britain*, ſome riſing " above the claſs, but a much greater proportion ſinking " below it, owing to a general taſte for oſtentation and " luxury; a contagion which has extended from the " Court to the very dregs of the people, and which is, " perhaps, paſt all remedy, till the diſorder arrives at a " criſis, which produces new order out of general con- " fuſion.

" Here it is full time to deſcend from the reflections " which the Pamphlet before us excited, to the Pamphlet " itſelf; which is one of thoſe well meaning performances " that a view of the growing numbers of the poor ſo fre- " quently dictates. The purport of it is to recommend " the eſtabliſhment of Houſes of Induſtry, wherein the " poor of a convenient number of pariſhes may be main- " tained under proper regulations, from the example of " one lately eſtabliſhed at *Nacton*, near *Ipſwich*."

SINCE

SINCE the first appearance of the following work in 1773, many and frequent have been the enquiries made both in this and our sister kingdom, concerning the true state of the indigent and necessitous part of the community *, which by the distinguished humanity of an individual, have been extended even to those who were under confinement in prisons; and the late parliament, among other well-timed regulations, passed "*The bill for preventing the vexatious removal* "*of the poor, The goal bill, &c. &c.*

And in the House of Commons of *Ireland*, "on *Thursday* the third of *March*, 1774, Dr. "*Clement* made a report from the Committee, appointed to examine the state of the "house of Industry. It appeared that 391 persons were in the house, whose maintenance "required 1649 l. 12 s. 9¾ a year, and that "it was entirely owing to the indefatigable "industry, abilities, and conduct of Mr. "*Benjamin Haughton* of *Ash-Street*, that "this scheme (first planned by Dean *Woodward*) has been carried into execution, to "the great advantage of the public, but to "his own private detriment, by the neglect "of his own business, having given up his "whole time to this scheme. That the "corporation had not sufficient funds to

"* In the year 1680, a regular calculation was made of "the annual amount of the Poor's rates in England, which "was 665,392 l and in the year 1773, it was encreased *four-*"*fifths*, being *three millions*; to which tea, drams, fashion, "idleness, gaming and dissipation, contribute very largely.

recom-

" recompence Mr. *Haughton*, and therefore " the Committee reſolved, that he was wor- " thy the conſideration of the houſe. Theſe " ſeveral reſolutions of the Committee were " unanimouſly agreed to by the houſe, and " ſeveral of the members expreſſed their " warmeſt approbation of Mr. *Haughton*'s " conduct, and higheſt ſenſe of his abilities, " and the great ſervices he had rendered to " the community.

" Col. *Blaquiere* ſaid, he was as ſenſible " of the important ſervices of Mr. *Haugh-* " *ton*, as any gentleman, and would have " been as glad, if the preſent ſtate of the re- " venue would have admitted of giving him a " proper compenſation, but that could not " be done at preſent; yet in the next ſeſſions " he would be the foremoſt, both to ack- " nowledge and recompence Mr. *Haughton*'s " great labours for the public good.

" Sir *Lucius O'Brien* moved, that the " thanks of the houſe ſhould be given to the " Rev. Dean *Woodward*, for his public ſer- " vices in reſpect to the beggars of this city.

" This motion was defended by Mr. *Red-* " *mond Morres*, Mr. *Talbot*, Mr. *Daly*, Mr. " *Barry*, and Mr. *French*, and oppoſed by " Mr. *Burke* (who moved the previous queſ- " tion) Col. *Burton*, Col. *Browne*, and Mr. " Prime Serjeant. The previous queſtion be- " ing put, paſſed in the negative, Ayes 34, " Noes 41.

Indeed the mode of relieving our poor ſeems of late to be a favourite topick for inveſtiga-

tion,

tion *, and every writer on this ſubject, warmed with an equal ſhare of benevolence and tenderneſs for thoſe diſtreſſed objects, have generouſly and very kindly thrown out hints, which were they received with the ſame attention as is ſhewn to other modern improvements, we ſhould no doubt ſee the poor under the beſt regulations, and this age would be diſtinguiſhed for the very humane inſtitution!---The general opinion appears to be, that the workhouſes belonging to ſmall pariſhes ought to be aboliſhed, and ſhould be ſucceeded by *county workhouſes* †.---That excepting the blind, the ſick, and infirm, every one of the inhabitants in thoſe places, ſhould be employed in working at the different profeſſions they have been brought up in, and that thoſe who have not learned any trade, ſhould be uſefully employed in different kinds of work, ſuch as *knitting, carpet-making, rope-making, &c. &c.*:---that inſtead of exempting ſome rich pariſhes, from their ſhare of the weight of poor's-rates, an equal proportional poor's-rate ought to be aſſeſſed in every county, and not on each pariſh ſeparately; which might in the end turn the thoughts of thoſe who are bleſſed with affluence, towards the uſeful employment of paupers, and prove to the world, that *induſtry produces wealth.*

* *Monday*, 27 *March*, 1775, Ordered in the Houſe of Commons, "That a Committee be appointed to review and conſider the ſeveral laws which concern the relief and ſettlement of the poor, and the laws relating to vagrants, and alſo the ſtate of the ſeveral houſes of correction within that part of *Great-Britain*, called *England*.

† Or at leaſt Hundred Houſes.

It

It may not be improper to add, that in a commercial nation like this, ſo many are the caſualties and misfortunes happening in trade, of which we have a recent inſtance from the number of hands who are totally unemployed, by reaſon of the *Americans* having withdrawn their orders for many of thoſe articles, which they were uſed to receive from hence, (beſides the fatal effects of extortion, engroſſing, and foreſtalling,) that the ſufferings of many of our diſtreſſed fellow-ſubjects, muſt at this time be intolerable!----The *Philanthropiſt* wiſhes therefore to lay the caſe of the neceſſitous and induſtrious poor, before the great Council of the Nation, hoping for every thing in their favour, from the diſtinguiſhed generoſity and humanity of *Engliſhmen*.----May future hiſtorians record, that the *plaintive echo* of diſtreſs no ſooner vibrated in the ſenate, than the complaints of the needy were attended to, their tears wiped away, and the firſt patriotick bill paſſed in *this Parliament*, was for making the moſt ample and equitable proviſion for the poor, thereby affording a profitable leſſon to *Britiſh* ſubjects, "*of doing as* "*they would be done unto*," and leaving a laſting monument of their munificence, for guardian angels to ſmile on, for every good man's protection, and for the admiration of every citizen of the world!----Then would the cry of diſtreſs ceaſe in the land, and every liſping babe claſp the hand ſtretched out for its relief, and that of its expiring parents.

London, March 31, 1775.

PROPOSALS, &c.

INTRODUCTION.

THE idea of an equality of condition among men, can only ariſe in the mind of a miſanthropiſt whom diſappointment hath driven into the comfortleſs ſtate of ſeclu-ſion from ſociety. Mankind are created of a ſo-cial nature: but to ſuppoſe that they can exiſt with happineſs without a regular ſubordination as well of rank as of fortune, it is abſolutely ne-ceſſary that men ſhould be, what in fact they are not, totally free from paſſions and deſires, void of ambition, and every one of them equal in in-duſtry, ſtrength, and capacity.

It has been therefore found neceſſary in all civil ſocieties, that certain rules and regulations ſhould be eſtabliſhed for the general good of the whole; and to theſe all the members of ſuch ſo-ciety are bound to pay a perfect obedience. For this purpoſe, ſome are conſtituted legiſlators and rulers; which naturally implies a ſubordination, as eſſential to government, without which it could never exiſt: neither would the property of individuals be exempt from the rapacious hand

of violence. But theſe regulations are not confined to perſons of property alone; for, on the other hand, as want and all its train of terrors and deſpair are the conſtant attendants on poverty, not to ſhew the utmoſt compaſſion, not to adminiſter every relief, to fellow-creatures under ſuch circumſtances, muſt argue a moſt unfeeling diſpoſition in thoſe who are appointed by Providence to be *the ſtewards of the people*. To be capable of denying them every needful aſſiſtance which it is in their power to give, they muſt reſiſt the generous propenſity of our nature, * and act the very reverſe to the *national characteriſtic*, which ſeems ever inclined to emotions of tenderneſs for perſons in any dangerous or calamitous ſituation.

* "Pity for the the miſeries of others is deſcribed by the immortal SHAKESPEARE, in the language of Nature, as deſcending like rain from Heaven upon the ſpot beneath. It is twice bleſſed: it bleſſeth him that gives, and him that takes. It is the moſt diſintereſted of all principles, and therefore the moſt commendable. The breaſt that is warmed by it partakes of Divinity. The exerciſe of Pity is the agency of the Deity by Man his ſubſtitute, to equalize and level the condition of men, the ſympathetic ſoul taking a ſhare of another's ills, as though it were a moiety of his burden. The participation of evil by Pity divides the pain, nor ſuffers an individual to be overborne. Pity is of more price than all other virtues. One ſingle tear ſhed on affliction is a pearl of ineſtimable value; and he, that cannot feel for another, is, by the juſtice of Nature, a ſtranger to the pleaſure that awaits relieving Compaſſion. As Cruelty is the apex of Vice, Pity is the ſummit of Virtue; and the ſoil where Pity grows is a nurſery of every virtue. If there be paſſions whoſe dictates are too much attended to, Pity is not one of them; it needs leſs the diſcipline of Reaſon than other affections. It is always meritorious, and ſeldom offends."

ſituation. In order then to mitigate that diſtreſs which poverty occaſions, the human heart is generally impreſſed with a ſtrong commiſeration for the ſad condition of a needy perſon. But, without attempting to account minutely for that compaſſion which is uſually ſhewn to the loweſt order of ſociety, the *poor*, diſperſed over this empire, it certainly is well founded, does honour to our ſpecies, and ought not only to be carefully cheriſhed and indulged, but likewiſe handed down *from father to ſon*.

To make a conſtant proviſion for the comfortable, but not ſuperfluous maintenance of the poor of all denominations, * who are unable to earn their livelihood by their own labour, ought to be the common concern of men of prudence and humanity; for it is evident, that of the great number of perſons, of which this vaſt empire is compoſed, a comparative few only are exempt from thoſe accidents in life (which neither human ſagacity could foreſee, nor human prudence prevent) as would render them fit objects of the compaſſion, tender care, and aſſiſtance, of the more fortunate of their fellow-citizens. Of this the number of miſerable objects, either returned to their relations for ſupport, or wandering about ſeeking bread in all parts of the nation, which

* Taking it for granted, (as I think we may) that an entire reformation in this particular is almoſt too great a bleſſing to be hoped for on account of the perverſeneſs and frailty of human nature, the preſent train of ills merits the attention and redreſs of Adminiſtration.

they dread to aſk of their own pariſh officers, are melancholy evidences, and furniſh to many conſiderate parents diſtreſſing proſpects of what may, one day, be the lot of their own families, when, either by ſickneſs, misfortunes, or death, they are left without a livelihood.

Of ſuch perſons there are many, who, though incapable to make effectual proviſion for ſo juſt and neceſſary a purpoſe as the ſupport of themſelves and family, yet, were they placed in an aſylum, where the means would be afforded them of gaining a ſupport in a manner herein after propoſed, might not only become uſeful to themſelves; but the profits and advantages, attending the joint labours of a whole family, could not fail of devolving, in a twofold manner, to ſociety, and thus ſecure in the moſt effectual way the *general good*.

At this time therefore of univerſal complaint, among all orders of people, about the dearneſs of proviſions, it is much to be wiſhed that a Houſe of Induſtry may be eſtabliſhed on ſuch equitable, humane, and generous principles, that the pariſh poor may find ready admittance into it, and be there uſefully employed. * The benefits attending ſuch

* The following is the preamble to an Act *for the better relief and employment of the poor in the Hundreds of* Loes *and* Wilford, *in the county of* Suffolk, 1765.

" Whereas the Poor in the Hundreds of *Loes* and *Wilford*, " in the county of *Suffolk*, are very numerous, and are main- " tained and ſupported at a great expence by their reſpective " pariſhes;

ſuch an inſtitution might be extended throughout Great Britain, and be enjoyed with growing advantage by poſterity; by which means many worthy parents would be effectually relieved, their children better provided for, and the decline of life rendered eaſy and comfortable to the tender and affectionate parents, of generations yet unborn.

" pariſhes: And whereas the granting of proper powers for the
" better government and regulation of the poor in the ſaid
" hundreds, and providing a place for their general reception,
" will tend to the more effectual relief and aſſiſtance of ſuch
" as, by age, infirmities, or diſeaſes, are rendered incapable
" of ſupporting themſelves by their labour, to the better em-
" ployment of the able and induſtrious, to the correction and
" puniſhment of the profligate and idle; and thereby the poor,
" inſtead of being wholly ſupported by the public, may con-
" tribute to the ſupport, aſſiſtance, and relief, mutually of
" each other, and be of ſome advantage to the Community
" to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous
" burthen:
" May it therefore pleaſe your *Majeſty*, &c. &c. &c.

REASONS

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

HOUSES OF INDUSTRY.

TO the ſingular honour of this Age and Nation, many and very expenſive deſigns, calculated for the excellent purpoſe of relieving the afflicted, have been generouſly ſet on foot, and ſupported by the prevailing ſpirit of Public Benevolence. Among the loud cries of various diſtreſs, which have reached the ears of the Compaſſionate, it ſeems a matter of wonder, that ſufficient attention has not yet been paid to the voice of indigent perſons of both ſexes, who, finding themſelves neceſſitated to aſk alms, are admitted into the Workhouſes of the pariſhes they belong to.

But this is ſo far from anſwering any charitable purpoſe, or in any meaſure relieving the diſtreſſes of the loweſt claſs of people, that nothing is more uſual than to ſee them prefer aſking alms in the public ſtreets, expoſed to the inclemency of a winter ſky, to rains and ſtorms, and, what to them is frequently more terrible, the harſh treatment of a pariſh beadle, rather than make an application for this kind of relief.

Setting

Setting aſide the thorough-paced beggar, * (who makes a trade of impoſing on the well-meaning donors) it is impoſſible to deſcribe the anguiſh of mind that perſon muſt be in, who, through a chain of unavoidable misfortunes, is turned out from a home, to depend upon the precarious benefactions of the buſy multitude, who have not leiſure to enquire into the merits of thoſe objects who preſent themſelves to their view: ſuch an one, being utterly unacquainted with the arts made uſe of to excite the pity of mankind, when failing in a decent and modeſt application, is then beſet with all the dreadful apprehenſions of immediate want, and too frequently abandoned to horror and deſpair. Should ſuch an unhappy wanderer be met by a pariſh beadle, it is not age, ſex, condition, or the moſt earneſt intreaties, that will prevent his driving ſuch a poor creature from pariſh to pariſh, or to a houſe of correction, where each priſoner, tired of an unhappy being, ſlaves through a tedious day, a reproach to his country, to human nature, and to ſound policy, ſince he is conſtantly making a progreſs in a ſtate of reprobateneſs. This is allowed to be the ſad effects of a Houſe of Force.

If the dread then of being ſent to a Workhouſe operates ſo very ſtrongly on the minds of the unfortunate,

* There appears to be ſound policy, and the beſt of regulations, in this reſpect, among the people called Quakers, as none of them are ever met with begging. This muſt be, in a great meaſure, owing to the encouragement afforded among them for induſtry.

mate, as to make them rather endure hardſhips that are not be related; what then muſt be a true picture of theſe places of Parochial Settlement? what, indeed, but a kind of priſon, where the poor, inſtead of living, ſcarcely breathe under the arbitrary government of the ſeveral officers? If ſome of them are not guilty of peculation, it is happy indeed for the poor: but the contrary is rather too apparent; and the ſufferers, inſtead of being *protected* by *ſuch a tribe of protectors*, find themſelves generally made a jobb of by ſome of them, ſtripped of their little remains by the pawnbroker, and too often fall a ſacrifice to the frequent uſe of ſpirituous liquors, (the qualities of which are ſo bad, that, were there a well-regulated police, they would never be allowed to be ſold to any one) accuſtoming themſelves to gin-drinking, to ſerve them as an opiate againſt reflection. A poor fellow-creature, who (an out-caſt to ſociety) has thus experienced miſery in the extreme in a Work-houſe, (ſituated, perhaps, in a narrow alley, with dirt and filth before the dwelling, and hard treatment, diſeaſe, and vermin, within it) may well wiſh to ſee a period put to his days; which, in caſe of his being viſited by ſickneſs, is the more likely to happen from theſe cauſes baffling and counteracting the power of medicine.

When this laſt ſcene is cloſed, too often do we find the poor remains denied the decent rites of having the burial ſervice read over them; and the

ſexton,

ſexton, who is the only humane perſon on the occaſion, at the time he throws earth over a number of coffins heaped together in one hole, draws a veil over the wrongs of an unpitied multitude of once-living ſufferers.

But there is another method of dealing with the poor; which is by ſending them to a houſe that is under the care and immediate inſpection of a perſon who makes a trade of farming the poor at four ſhillings each, or thereabouts, per week, and receives the profits of their earnings, after allowing them a conſideration for their work. This mode of the two evils is the leaſt, ſince ſome pariſh poor have allowed their caſe to be bettered. But then, how precarious is their ſituation! The inſpection of their overſeers at times is but too ſlight a fence againſt their ruler: beſides, the very term of Farming the Poor is a diſgrace to the community, and would give greater offence if cuſtom had not made it familiar, or was it fairly ſubmitted to the notice of the candid.

The recapitulation of the ſeveral abuſes that have frequently crept into the management of Workhouſes, at the ſame time that it would force a tear of compaſſion from all degrees of people, muſt neceſſarily require a detail too tedious to be entered into here.

It is high time therefore to make mention of there being a means of redreſſing theſe grievances by eſtabliſhing Houſes of Induſtry, after the ex-

ample of thoſe that are in a flouriſhing ſtate in the country, as appears by the annexed accounts; which, as it is well worth the attention of the legiſlature, (more eſpecially at this time, when the caſe of the poor is recommended from the throne in his Majeſty's moſt gracious ſpeech to both houſes of Parliament) will, it is hoped, be peruſed by the members of it; when the good effect will doubtleſs be produced of ſimilar houſes being opened, not only for the benefit of the poor in London, but of thoſe in any part of Great Britain.

Of the Nature *and* Advantages *of* Houses *of* Industry.

THE advantages reſulting from this kind of eſtabliſhment muſt be very great, ſince it comprehends, at once, the public good,* and the ſettlement of the induſtrious poor, who may juſtly be ranked among the moſt valuable members of the community, and whoſe children may be brought up to uſeful occupations, in the ſame houſe with them, (though not under their influence,

* If none of the reaſons alledged before are thought ſufficient for a new regulation's taking place for reforming the lower claſs of people, ſurely the conſideration of the loſs ſuſtained by ſociety during the laſt nine months, by perſons having been capitally convicted, and ſentenced for tranſportation, is enough to make one hearty in the cauſe.

N. B. The people are in general too often accuſtomed to ſee acts of cruelty, which hardens them inſenſibly.

ence, or guidance) which will be a ſecure means of encouraging their great tenderneſs and affection for their offſpring.

The neceſſity of ſuch an eſtabliſhment has been long felt; and the advantages thereof being ſo very apparent from the improving ſtate of thoſe already eſtabliſhed in the country, (paſt experience being the beſt foundation for future expectation) there ſcarce remains a doubt of ſo good an example being followed here. It may not be improper to obſerve, that the plan upon which ſuch an inſtitution would be founded ſeems perfectly agreeable to the ſpirit and ſenſe of the poor's laws, as eſtabliſhed by parliament: and further it may be mentioned, that there are not any donations required for this undertaking; ſo far from it, it appears that the produce of the manual labour of the poor, will, with the aid of the rates collected for them, enable the truſtees in a few years to pay off the firſt debts attending the eſtabliſhment, and building a houſe. The money for anſwering theſe expences may be raiſed by life-annuities.

Whether the nature of this deſign is well adapted to theſe ſeveral purpoſes, is here ſubmitted to the conſideration of the public.

Firſt, A Houſe of Induſtry, when erected, might contain the poor, of either ſex, belonging to one or more pariſhes, in a free air, and wholeſome ſituation, where they might be conſtantly employed, and treated humanely. Their children

might be ſeparated from them in two wings of the building, who, on viſiting their parents occaſionally, would rejoice them with the pleaſing ſight of their being brought up to labour and induſtry. It cannot be denied, but that the proviſion which is hereby made for the great emergency *of coming on the pariſh* is very valuable, and the relief of immediate ſervice. Men of very * low condition can hardly purchaſe the neceſſaries of life; and, if they have a family of children, it will be found very difficult for them (who, beſides, are very rarely patterns of œconomy) to defray the leaſt charges attending their wives, when taken ill; not but that many of them have as ſtrong attachments to each other, as thoſe who have been educated in higher life, and with greater expectations. They will do as much, ſuffer as much, and deny themſelves as much, for each other, as people of ſuperior condition. This is undoubtedly true with reſpect to many a poor couple. It is therefore neceſſary, in caſes of poverty, that a ſeparation between the huſband and wife ſhould not intercept ſo fair an occaſion of confirming their mutual affection.

Secondly, Every expedient that tends to the preſervation of the lives and healths, and the improvement

* "It is moſt congenial with the ſentiments of humanity, "that, when a man is ſurrounded with misfortunes, we ſhould "the more ardently attach ourſelves to his intereſt, and endea-"vour to reſtore to him the comfort he has loſt, by animating "him with the beſt of hopes, reviving his deſponding ſpirits, "and infuſing into his cup of Grief a drop of Joy."

provement in the morals, of the induſtrious poor, is of general utility. By feeding them with wholeſome food, and avoiding the abuſe of ſtrong liquors, they will find themſelves not only better able to enjoy their ſituation, but fitter to receive thoſe good impreſſions which muſt neceſſarily be made on them by the forcible perſuaſion of good examples. *

Thirdly, When ſuch places of refuge are eſtabliſhed, it will be an eaſy matter to know who are beggars by profeſſion, and clear the ſtreets from them. †

The public is intreated to attend to the ſpecial advantages which will accrue to ſociety from theſe wholeſome regulations, which of courſe muſt *lower the price of proviſions*, beſides that good dwellings may be erected, inſtead of the crazy habitations the poor now occupy.

This account, it is hoped, will ſufficiently explain the benefits attending the eſtabliſhment of *Houſes of Induſtry*, obviate any objections to them, ‡ give the candid and conſiderate a juſt and favourable

* There is every good to be expected from the morals of the lower order of people being attended to, ſince their behaviour at places of Public Worſhip is exemplary, and may be eſſentially improved. It is very ſound policy to foſter and encourage it.

† If a beggar goes into the city of Saliſbury, the firſt inhabitant who meets him generally adviſes him to depart in leſs than half an hour, unleſs he chooſes to ſubject himſelf to be whipped. As they put their threats in force, that city is kept clear from theſe peſts of ſociety.

‡ It may be obſerved by ſome, that there are many among the

vourable idea of them, and engage the benevolent in the foundation and ſupport of them.

PLAN *of the* HOUSES *of* INDUSTRY.

THE moſt natural method for effecting the purpoſe of a reformation among the poor will, I truſt, be allowed to be by the erecting public buildings, ſubject to the inſpection and regulation of governors, appointed by the *chief gentlemen in each pariſh*, whoſe province ſhould be to guard againſt and prevent the incidental grievances which have been pointed out before. The deſirable example has been ſet by ſeveral inſtitutions of the kind; one of which is at Nacton, near Ipſwich, in Suffolk. A regular detail is hereto affixed in the two letters marked (A.) and (B.)

Though I am as averſe as any one to the abating any thing in the merit of that good deſign, I would nevertheleſs ſubmit it to the conſideration of thoſe who are well acquainted with mankind, whether an undertaking of this ſort would not meet with greater encouragement, were the following general rules attended to.

Firſt, In the erecting the houſe, it would be well to avoid making a lofty building, as one on the plan

the poor whom it would be found impoſſible to reclaim. I ſhould be glad it might appear otherwiſe. But, be it as it may, I plead the cauſe of the Innocent, ſince it is a great pity that they ſhould undeſervedly ſuffer for the Guilty.

plan of the Foundling Hoſpital would be more commodious and healthy. It would be neceſſary alſo to have ſome extent of ground, for the purpoſes of a garden, &c.

There ſeems to be vacant ſpots, ſuitable for this purpoſe, in St. George's Fields, and at the bottom of Grays-Inn Lane, adjoining to the new Welch ſchool.

Secondly, That in conducting this charity the rulers ſhould avoid every appearance of confinement, force, or compulſion, as much as poſſible, with every thing which might appear humiliating to the poor, ſuch as wearing a badge, &c. On the contrary, it would be prudent to give them honorary marks of approbation, when any among them excel the others in abilities, or good behaviour.

Another thing, though very trivial in itſelf, ſhould not eſcape the notice of the governors; which is, not to require the poor to be dreſſed in cloaths of the ſame colour. The quality of their garments ought, notwithſtanding, to be the ſame.

Thirdly, A diſcretionary power ſhould be given to the governor, for reclaiming, by degrees, ſuch perſons who have uſed themſelves to ſtrong liquors; as leaving them off too ſuddenly might be attended with fatal effects.

It would be alſo very equitable to ſuit the diet according to the exigencies, or conſtitutions, of the poor: nevertheleſs, any appearances of partiality ſhould as carefully be avoided.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, It would be a means of endearing the governors to the poor, were they to give them permiſſion to viſit their friends in reaſon.

Fifthly, Though the major part of the poor would become conſtant inhabitants in theſe houſes, it would be neceſſary to extend its benefits occaſionally to thoſe, who, being out of place or employ, would gladly ſeek a temporary ſhelter in this ſafe harbour, till ſuch time as they were enabled to work again at their reſpective callings.

To proceed on forming any other plan, beſides that which is given in the following letters, would be entirely needleſs; ſince, if there is any thing wanting to make an eſtabliſhment of this ſort more beneficial or permanent, it will be ſupplied by the ſuperior judgment and wiſdom of Parliament, to whoſe conſideration the whole is moſt reſpectfully ſubmitted, and on whoſe experience and deciſion the whole nation will rely, with

London, Nov. 26, 1772.

HUMANUS.

Extract

Extract of a LETTER from ———, Eſſex, October 1761.

On the HOUSE *of* INDUSTRY, *near* Ipſwich.

AT a time when happineſs and proſperity crown our nation, when a King univerſally and juſtly beloved fills our throne, when public ſpirit and charity remarkably flouriſh, and men ſeem well diſpoſed to remedy evils and encourage improvements; any hints tending to the public welfare will, I doubt not, be acceptable, and will meet with all the regard and attention which may ſeem due to their importance.

The caſe of the poor of the nation in general, but the metropolis eſpecially, has long and often been the object of ſerious ſpeculation. Their evils are many and grievous; and every wiſe and good man muſt wiſh to alleviate their evils; for, though poor and needy, they are fellow-creatures and fellow-chriſtians, made of the ſame blood, and heirs of the ſame glory. Nay, and in a political light, it certainly merits our moſt attentive conſideration how beſt to provide for the lower, but moſt uſeful, members of the ſociety: for owe we not to them all the care and elegance of ſuperior life? owe we not to the painful hand of Induſtry and Labour all the comforts and conveniences of more elevated ſtations? Surely then it is but juſtice, I will not call it humanity, to take care, that

when age or infirmities, when afflictions or troubles, come upon them, and incapacitate them from their daily toil; ſurely it is but common juſtice to take care, that they be as well provided for as their caſe and circumſtances will admit. Happily for them, and much to the credit of our times, many comfortable proviſions are made for their temporary misfortunes in our public hoſpitals: but whether the proviſion for them in our public workhouſes is comfortable, I imagine, will ſcarcely be queſtioned. This is the object to which the public attention has been turned, and which deſerves the utmoſt attention: private as well as public intereſt calls upon us to conſider it; for pariſh rates are grown to ſuch an exorbitant height, that families feel them very ſenſibly; and if we were to hear the ſum, which throughout the kingdom is collected for the poor, we ſhould ſtand amazed, and wonder how it could poſſibly be expended, and the poor be ill provided for. Yet they are ill provided for: the allowance in many caſes is not ſufficient to ſupport life; and there are ſome workhouſes, which, conſcious of this, ſuffer their poor to go out and beg; but, with ſufficient œconomy, they abridge them of part of their weekly ſtipend, in conſideration of this ſcandalous liberty.

It is much to be wiſhed, that ſome method could be fixed upon to remedy theſe evils, to employ the poor properly, to ſupport them decently, wholly to remove the opprobrious nuiſance of common

beggars

beggars from our ſtreets, and to reduce the poor's rates at the ſame time, ſo large a part of which, ſurely, there can be no need for inferior and mercenary officers to embezzle, and ſpend in eating and drinking.

I do not by any means pretend—I am not of ſufficient underſtanding—nor dare I by any means preſume—I am not of ſufficient authority—to offer to the public Schemes, or Plans, for the effecting ſo deſirable and noble an end. Let me only hope, that ſome great and good men will take the matter into their hands; and, even in my little circle, I could point out many equal to the undertaking, and to whoſe diſtinguiſhed virtues ſuch an attempt would add dignity. The bleſſings of the poor and needy, and the reverence of all thinking perſons amongſt us, would attend them; their country would honour them; and, what is chief of all, their God would crown and reward them. But though to hope, and to wiſh, is all that men in lower ſtations can do, yet I will beg leave to propoſe an example to the public eye of a Poor's houſe which I have lately viſited, which gave me high ſatisfaction, and which occaſioned the preſent reflections. It is called the Houſe of Induſtry, and is built on a large and open common, in the pariſh of *Nacton*, about three or four miles from *Ipſwich*. The building is commodious, and perfectly adapted to the ſcheme. It is deſigned for the poor of the hundreds of Colneis

and Carlford, in the county of Suffolk; and the houſe well anſwers to its name. We came to it juſt as they had finiſhed their dinner, and were pleaſed and ſurprized at the cleanneſs and ſweetneſs of the houſe, equal to that of any private family, though I think the inhabitants then much exceeded an hundred. The poor, men, women, and children, according to their different abilities, are conſtantly and regularly employed, chiefly in hempen works and in ſpinning, according to the direction of the managers. I examined all their ſtores, and found their proviſions in general of the beſt ſorts: they brew and bake, &c. all within themſelves, and have ſeparate rooms for their ſtock of corn, flour, and the like, as alſo for their manufactories; all neat and regular as can be conceived. It was pleaſing and affecting to ſee little children, who could ſcarce ſpeak, plying their reels, or performing their taſks, with an aſſiduity that could ſcarce be expected; and the univerſal cleanlineſs in men, women, and children, gave us high ſatisfaction. The maſter of the houſe reads prayers morning and evening to the whole family; and on Sunday a clergyman performs duty in the place. I ſhould have added, that at a proper diſtance from the houſe is an infirmary for the infectious diſeaſed; and an apothecary's ſhop in the houſe, which a regular apothecary attends.

The whole is under the direction and govern-

ment

ment of the gentlemen, clergy, &c. within the hundreds, who hold a committee at the houſe every Monday, and on whoſe good care and management the houſe does high honour. The induſtry, which every able inhabitant is obliged to exert, has much diminiſhed the number of lazy and troubleſome poor in the ſeveral pariſhes within their hundreds; the worthy and deſerving poor are comfortably and ſufficiently provided for; no beggars are ſeen or allowed within the diſtrict; and very large ſavings muſt neceſſarily be made in the poor's rates throughout the pariſhes.

Now, if upon this plan of the Houſe of Induſtry others were erected throughout the ſeveral counties, and according to the populouſneſs of the diſtricts, might not happy effects be produced? And does not this ſeem a ready and reaſonable method to provide for the poor with propriety?

I will ſend you a clauſe in the act of parliament which has paſſed for the erecting of this houſe; together with ſome of the rules, orders, and regulations of it.

(A)

Extract of a LETTER, *dated November* 1761.

AGreeably to my promiſe I ſend you ſome of the Rules, &c. obſerved in the Houſe of Induſtry, near *Ipſwith*, as a ſupplement to my laſt Letter ſent you.

RULES,

RULES, ORDERS, *and* REGULATIONS, *for the better government of the* Poor *in the* Houſe *of* Induſtry.

That the governor do admit no poor perſon into this houſe, unleſs ſuch perſon ſhall produce a certificate, in writing, under the hands of the church-wardens and overſeers of ſome pariſh within the two hundreds where ſuch perſon claimeth a ſettlement, certifying that ſuch perſon hath a legal ſettlement within that pariſh: and if the officers of any pariſh are doubtful concerning the legal ſettlement of ſuch poor perſon, they are to certify their doubts to the governor; and he is immediately to carry ſuch poor perſon before the next of his Majeſty's juſtices of the peace, to be examined, and paſſed to the place of ſettlement, if it be found to be elſewhere.

That the governor ſhall, in no caſe, place any perſons in the wards till they be carefully examined, waſhed and cleaned, and new-cloathed, if neceſſary; and, in that caſe, he is to cauſe the old cloaths to be well cleaned; and, if ſuch poor perſons be likely to be diſcharged from the houſe, their old cloaths are to be kept until they be diſcharged, and then delivered to them to wear, in exchange for the cloaths found by the houſe.

They are to keep all the able poor to ſuch work or employment as they are fit for, and call them to it by ring of bell at the hours following; from Lady-day to Michaelmas, from ſix in the morning

to

to ſeven in the evening; from Michaelmas to Lady-day, from ſeven in the morning to ſix in the evening; and they are to allow them half an hour for breakfaſt, an hour for dinner; and to allow the children a ſufficient time for learning to read.

That they cauſe grace to be ſaid both before and after meat; keep all the rooms neat and clean, ſee them ſwept every day, or at leaſt three times a week, and waſhed as often as they can conveniently have it done; that they cauſe the windows to be ſet open every day, except in rainy weather, and ſuffer no victuals to be eaten out of the dining-room, except by the ſick.

That they ſee all to bed by nine o'clock in the ſummer, and eight in the winter; be careful to ſee all candles and fires out, except in the ſick wards; ſuffer no perſon, on any account, to ſmoak in the bed-rooms, or above ſtairs.

The governor to read prayers, or cauſe them to be read, every day in the morning before ringing the working-bell, and in the evening after ſupper; at which times the names of all the poor ſhall be called over, and all the abſenters puniſhed at the diſcretion of the governor.

The governor is not to ſuffer any poor perſons to be maintained in this houſe without obliging them to wear the badge, (except ſuch as may be employed as nurſes and ſervants in doing the work of the houſe); and he is to appoint ſuch nurſes or ſervants to do the neceſſary buſineſs of the houſe,

who,

who, if they behave well, and be recommended by him, will be encouraged or advanced by the weekly committee. He ſhall alſo ſee the victuals cut out and properly delivered, take care there be no waſte made, or any bread cut under a day old.

The governor ſhall, on the Monday in every week, give in an account of all proviſions received and expended in the week preceding, to the committee, and likewiſe of all work done at the houſe; and make his complaint to them of all the perſons miſbehaving under him, and their ſeveral offences: and, at all times, in the committee-room a book ſhall lie open, with pen and ink near it, that, in caſe any guardian, or other perſon, viſiting the houſe occaſionally, ſhall perceive any thing amiſs, or can ſuggeſt any new propoſal for the better conducting this undertaking, he may write his thoughts or obſervations therein, that the weekly committee may conſider the ſame, and report it to the next quarterly meeting, if they think proper.

The governor is to keep a book, in which he is to enter the admiſſion of every poor perſon admitted into this houſe.

When any perſon falls ſick or lame, notice to be given by the governor to the apothecary or ſurgeon with convenient ſpeed, that proper diet be allowed, and care taken of the patient.

That there be a ſchool in the houſe, where all children above three years of age ſhall be kept

till

till they ſhall be five years old, and then ſet to ſpinning, and ſuch other proper and beneficial work as they are able to perform.

That ſuch girls as are of a proper age be employed and inſtructed (as far as the matron and ſervants belonging to the houſe are capable of teaching them) in cookery, houſewifery, waſhing, ſcouring, and all other work to qualify them for ſervice.

That the governor provide wormwood from time to time to fumigate the rooms, which is alſo to be uſed in waſhing linen, and in the beds; and the matron is to take care that the nurſes lay it in all the bed-ſheets.

That neither the governor nor the governeſs buy or ſell, or ſuffer any diſtilled liquors to come into the houſe.

That an appointed bill of fare be punctually obſerved by the maſter and miſtreſs.

That, for the encouragement of thoſe who ſhall diſcharge the buſineſs they are appointed to do, with care and diligence, rewards ſhall be given them from time to time, as the board ſhall judge of their merit.

That the governors and matron do not, under any pretence whatſoever, ſuffer any poor perſon belonging to the houſe to drink any tea therein.

That the governor do every Monday morning lay before the weekly committee an account of all materials ſent in for the employment of the poor,

and the work done by them; and ſhall, every quarter, make out, and lay before the directors and guardians, at their quarterly meeting, a general account of the quantity and price of ſuch materials, and of the work manufactured, with the net profit of the ſame; and that no ſuch work be diſpoſed of without an order from the weekly board.

That the apothecary do attend the weekly board from the hour of eleven to one, and give the directors and guardians an account of ſuch poor as are under his care; that he attend the ſick twice, or oftener, in a week, and give them ſuch medicines and preſcriptions as their caſe may require.

That the miniſter do read the prayers uſed in the church of England, and preach to the poor of this houſe, every Sunday, and catechiſe the children every Wedneſday, or Friday, and viſit ſuch ſick as ſhall deſire it.

RULES *and* ORDERS *to be obſerved by the* POOR.

They ſhall at all times behave themſelves peaceably and quietly; they ſhall not ſwear, curſe, quarrel, or give rude language; nor ſhall they be guilty of any lewd, immoral, or indecent behaviour, on pain of loſing their next meal for the firſt offence, and for the ſecond ſuch other puniſhment as the weekly committee ſhall direct.

They ſhall attend prayers morning and evening, eat their victuals orderly in the dining-room, carry

none

none out, nor depart till after grace be ſaid, on pain of loſing their next meal.

If any poor perſons ſhall, during their maintenance in this houſe, purloin, ſell, or pawn, any of the materials or implements of work, utenſils, goods, or chattels, belonging to the corporation, or pawn any of their apparel with which they ſhall be cloathed; ſuch offender, if a child, ſhall be puniſhed by abatement of diet, or diſtinction of dreſs or diet, or by moderate correction; or, if ſuch offender ſhall not be a child, either by abatement of diet, or diſtinction of dreſs or diet, or by being ſet in the ſtocks, without any other diet than bread and water, for any ſpace not exceeding twelve hours.

They are not to ſmoak but in the working-rooms, and by no means above ſtairs, on pain of ſevere puniſhment.

If any of the poor preſume to beg money, or drink, from any perſon attending, or coming to view the houſe; for the firſt offence, they ſhall be deprived of their next meal; for the ſecond, ſet in the ſtocks for ſix hours; and for the third, undergo ſuch farther puniſhment as to the weekly committee ſhall ſeem meet.

That ſlothful people, who pretend ailments to excuſe themſelves from work, be properly examined; and if it appears they made falſe excuſes, then they ſhall be puniſhed.

Perſons convicted of lying, to be ſet on ſtools in the

the moſt public place of the dining-room, and have papers fixed on their breaſt, with theſe words written thereon, INFAMOUS LYAR.

Several Clauſes of the Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundreds of Colneis *and* Carlford, *in the County of* Suffolk.

—" And the ſaid guardians of the poor in the ſaid hundreds of Colneis and Carlford ſhall have, and are hereby declared to have, power and authority, from time to time, to make and ordain ſuch by-laws, rules, and ordinances, for the better governing ſuch corporation, and the poor which ſhall be under their care, and for carrying on any trade that ſhall be ſet on foot by ſuch corporation, for the employment of the ſaid poor, and other ends and purpoſes of this act, as ſhall be approved by the juſtices of aſſize, or one of them, coming into the ſaid county of Suffolk ;— And that ſuch by-laws, rules and ordinances, ſhall, from time to time, be printed for the uſe of the members of the ſaid corporation, their officers, and ſervants ;"—" Provided always, and be it further enacted, that it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the guardians of the poor within the ſaid hundreds, at their meetings on the Wedneſday in the Eaſter week, or at any other quarterly meeting, as is herein-afterwards appointed, from time

time to time, and at all times hereafter, to repeal, alter, or amend, any ſuch rules, orders or conſtitutions, ſo made by the ſaid directors and guardians, and to make ſuch other rules, orders, or conſtitutions, as to them, ſo aſſembled at ſuch general quarterly meeting, ſhall ſeem reaſonable, ſo that the ſame be not repugnant to the laws of the land."—

Made at the work-houſe at Nacton, in Suffolk; and ſold by the guardians of the poor, at the ſaid houſe, and at their warehouſe at Mr. William Truelove's, in the Butter-market, in Ipſwich, for ready money, all ſorts of ſacking and bed-bottom cloth, ſacks and bags of all ſorts, bed-bottoms, and barn-cloths;—all ſorts of white cordage, as waggon-ropes, bell-ropes, plough-lines, halters, jack-lines, bed-lines, garden-lines, hooking-lines, and chalk-lines, &c.—all ſorts of rand or netting-twine, laid cord, packthread, ſhop-thread, ſack-thread;—alſo all ſorts of ropes, lines, and ſmall cordage, made of twice-laid ſtuff.

(B)

Extract of a LETTER from *Ipſwich*, dated the 7th of December, 1762.

CONSIDERATIONS *on the Management of the Poor; with a full Account of the* Houſe *of* Induſtry, *near* Ipſwich.

THE good government and maintenance of the poor is a ſubject of ſuch importance to the public in general, and to the eternal as well as temporal welfare of the poor in particular, that it may deſervedly merit the attention of all friends to Chriſtianity. You have already had our new ſcheme for the better relief and employment of the poor in the two hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, near Ipſwich: I am deſirous to ſend you ſome farther account of it.

What was before ſaid of the Nacton Work-houſe was occaſioned by one ſingle viſit accidentally made to it by a ſtranger, and was therefore very ſhort. But, as there is reaſon to believe, from the various enquiries that have been made by gentlemen in ſeveral other countries, as well as ſome other hundreds in Suffolk, that many want to be informed more fully concerning it, I will enter further into the ſubject; I will conſider the riſe of the laws relating to the poor, ſome of the inconveniences that attend them in the way they

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are now commonly executed in country pariſhes, the uſefulneſs of ſuch houſes as this at Nacton, in order to remedy thoſe inconveniences, and laſtly, as ſome *proof* of their uſefulneſs, the ſucceſs that hath attended us at Nacton.

Formerly the poor had conſiderable relief from that old hoſpitality which was once in vogue. Gentlemen then reſided chiefly at their country ſeats. The roaſt beef of old England was not yet baniſhed to the ſide-board: on the contrary, the long oaken tables in the old halls, however ſtrong, were made to crack under the weight of the ſubſtantial diſhes that covered them. The magnificence of an entertainment was then to be eſtimated, like Joſeph's compliment to Benjamin, by the quantity rather than by the quality of it; and the large remainder furniſhed a comfortable relief to the neighbouring poor. This did much: but, before the Reformation, the poor had their chief ſupport from their religious houſes; and, as ſoon as theſe were ſuppreſſed, they immediately felt the loſs of them. Their miſery increaſed ſo faſt, that even in the reign of King Henry VIII. the legiſlature was obliged to take notice of it; and ſome expedients were tried to abate the evil. The juſtices of the peace, and high-conſtables, were authoriſed to permit the poor to beg, within the hundreds where they lived, by licence under their ſeal; and ſevere corporal puniſhments were inflicted upon all ſuch as ſhould be found begging

ging without licences, or beyond their diſtrict with them. But this did not anſwer the purpoſe: the very aged, the very young, and all ſuch as were moſt impotent, and therefore moſt neceſſitous, could not go out to beg; and begging could, at the beſt, procure only an uncertain and precarious ſupport. At length, as the diſtreſs of the poor increaſed, their clamours became ſo loud, that they occaſioned one of the moſt humane and benevolent laws that ever were made; I mean the ſtatute of 43 Eliz. requiring the inhabitants of every pariſh to maintain their own poor.

It was beyond the reach of human foreſight at once to contrive ſuch a law as would completely anſwer all the various purpoſes intended by it: but this is the foundation of all the laws now ſubſiſting concerning the poor; and from that time to this the wiſdom of the legiſlature hath often been employed in explaining, amending, and otherwiſe improving it: but, after all the explanations and amendments that have been made, the manner in which the poor are in country pariſhes generally relieved under it (which is by a pecuniary weekly allowance to each poor perſon) is attended with ſeveral inconveniences, and is become extremely expenſive in moſt places. Now, it is my endeavour to ſhew, that theſe inconveniences, and this extenſive expence, will be either wholly removed, or greatly abated, by the uſe of ſuch houſes as the Nacton Work-houſe.

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In providing for the Poor, theſe five things ſhould be attended to—1ſt, The aged, diſabled, and ſuch poor perſons as are otherwiſe capable of work, ſhould be maintained—2dly, The ſick and diſeaſed, beſides maintenance, ſhould be aſſiſted with phyſic and ſurgery—3dly, The children ſhould be educated, and when of proper age employed—4thly, The able, but lazy poor, ſhould be compelled to work—and, 5thly, The vicious and ungovernable ſhould be puniſhed.

For the two laſt ſorts, perhaps, county houſes of correction may be proper places, provided they be properly managed, ſo as to be not only priſons, but work-houſes. I ſhall therefore think myſelf concerned chiefly with the three ſorts firſt mentioned.

The preſent ſtatutable relief is diſpenſed to the poor by the overſeers of the pariſh, under the direction of the pariſh-meeting. But pariſh-officers, or even pariſh-meetings, do not ſeem to be the propereſt hands to lodge the government and care of the poor in. The office of overſeer is both troubleſome and expenſive, and therefore it goes round from one to another in ſome ſort of rotation; ſo that it ſometimes falls upon ſuch perſons as are not fit to govern any thing. And as to pariſh-meetings, if the pariſhioners are numerous, they are very mobbiſh aſſemblies. At theſe every contributor to the rates claims an equal importance with the reſt; and the vulgar people, with their

noiſe and their nonſenſe, but chiefly by their rude and abuſive language, drive away the better and wiſer ſort of men. To take the management of the poor, therefore, out of ſuch hands, and to put them under the government of more diſcrete and reputable perſons, would be a probable means of having them better taken care of.

The preſent parochial relief is ſometimes inſufficient, and is very often unequally diſpenſed. A penurious overſeer, or pariſh-meeting, do not ſufficiently feel for the petitioner, nor commiſerate his caſe properly; ſo that oftentimes, from a want of humanity, too ſcanty a proviſion is allowed; and, if the *pauper* is a meek and modeſt perſon, this is ſubmitted to and accepted, for ſuch trouble not the magiſtrates; whereas, at the ſame time, a bold and noiſy man, who can get to the ear of a juſtice of the peace, though he may not want half ſo much as the other, ſhall obtain more: but in our Work-houſe the poor, all and every of them, are *well* and *equally* provided for.

The weekly pecuniary relief is miſapplied by the poor themſelves. It is well known, that the chief ſubſiſtence of the poor, even ſuch as are maintained by the pariſh, at leaſt in this *eaſtern* part of the kingdom, is that odious ſtuff which they call *Tea*, with a ſmall quantity of bread and butter. And nothing need be ſaid to ſhew the unwholeſomeneſs of this drink, more than juſt to mention one infallible and conſtant effect of it,

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which is, that in a ſhort time it almoſt totally deſtroys their natural appetite.

The children of the pariſh poor, under the common way of parochial relief, are miſerably provided for. Indeed, their parents in country pariſhes are, properly ſpeaking, under no government at all; and the children learn nothing that they ſhould, but much that they ſhould not. They are taught to ſteal fuel from their infancy; they are badly cloathed, and worſe fed, not with wholeſome diet, and not with enough even of that.

The caſe of the ſick and diſeaſed, who want the aid of phyſic and ſurgery, is as bad as that now mentioned. The poor, or indeed the pariſh-officers, under a wrong notion of cheapneſs, do generally run to the very loweſt of practitioners, who, partly from their unſkilfulneſs in judging of diſtempers, and partly from their ignorance of the nature of the medicines they uſe, often leave their patient worſe than they found him. And yet theſe people are well paid by a pariſh; and this article makes a conſiderable figure in the expences of *every pariſh*. But, if the poor be brought in proper numbers to one houſe, ſome perſon of ability in his profeſſion may be induced to attend them there; and then, with the aſſiſtance of wholeſome and proper diet, they might have relief in this way much cheaper, and much better, than they now have.

If, in the next place, we conſider the difference of expence between maintaining the poor by a weekly pecuniary allowance, and maintaining them in a Work-houſe, at firſt ſight the Work-houſe maintenance appears to be by far the cheapeſt. When a poor man is coming upon a pariſh, the firſt thing he aſks for is houſe-rent; and the next is fuel: and many perſons apply for theſe, and accept them, who nevertheleſs are above taking weekly collections; and none of theſe would go into the houſe. Nay, there are many who will accept weekly collections, but will not go into a Work-houſe; and, when they know they cannot be relieved by the pariſh without going into a Work-houſe, they will uſe their utmoſt endeavours not to come there. So that the number of perſons to be relieved will be greatly reduced by relieving them in Work-houſes only. And, as to thoſe who will come in, it is evident, that, if a number of people are to be maintained with houſe-room, fuel, cloaths, and all other neceſſaries, it may be done cheaper by bringing them into one houſe, where the ſame fire, copper, &c. can ſupply them all, than it can by hiring houſes, and buying fuel for each family or perſon ſeparately, and giving each of them money to buy themſelves food and cloaths.

For theſe reaſons, and probably for many others, the Parliament hath, from time to time, encouraged work-houſes, and empowered pariſhes to buy or build

build them, and enable two or three parishes to join together for this purpose; and in some parishes of London and Westminster, and other large cities, such as Bristol and Norwich, Work-houses have had a good effect. But, in country towns and villages, Parochial Work-houses cannot answer the intention of them, for these reasons.

First, They are under the management of parish-officers and parish-meetings, therefore liable to the objections before mentioned.

Secondly, These small Work-houses will help the matter very little in the case of the sick and diseased poor.

Thirdly, The children will not be better managed in these small houses than if they were at home with their parents.

Fourthly, In these small houses you will not have proper help to do the work of the house, and to take care of the sick and diseased; you must hire servants for these purposes: for, as these small houses are chiefly filled with children, or very old and diseased persons, if they should be *inclined* to attend upon each other, they will not be *able* to do it; and the wages and maintenance of servants will run away with the savings of the house.

But, Fifthly, the great objection against Parochial Work-houses, even though two or three country parishes should join together, is this; they

they cannot be *well governed.* Whether a Work-houſe be large or ſmall, the ſucceſs of it will very much depend upon the governor; and in ſmall houſes you cannot make it worth the while of a proper perſon to take care of them. To do this, you muſt make ſome decent appointment for the governor; and that, in this caſe, cannot be afforded. This hath been fatal to all ſuch houſes as have fallen in my way. It is now the caſe of all the work-houſes, I believe, in this town, where almoſt every pariſh has a work-houſe; but it is generally agreed they do but little good. They can do no good, unleſs by deterring the poor from coming into them; for ſuch ſmall houſes are generally farmed out to the governor, who either makes a blind bargain, runs all hazards, and undertakes to maintain all that ſhall be brought to him for a certain annual ſum; or elſe he undertakes the poor one with another at ſo much a head by the week. In either way you may judge how well the poor are likely to be provided for.

The Parliament ſeems to have been ſenſible of the inconveniences attending Parochial Work-houſes. The ſubject was canvaſſed in the Houſe of Commons a year or two before our houſe was built, where it was propoſed to have General County Work-houſes. But this was ſuch a huge unwieldy ſcheme, attended with ſuch an amazing certain expence, and liable to ſo many reaſonable objections, that the Parliament rejected it. Then

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it was propoſed to have County Work-houſes, to take in *Children only*: but this, though it conſiderably reduced the other propoſal, was ſubject to very many of the ſame objections which attended that; and therefore this likewiſe was rejected.

But though Parochial Work-houſes are too ſmall, and County Work-houſes too large, it did ſo evidently appear that the poor might be both better and much cheaper provided for in a Work-houſe than without one, that ſeveral gentlemen were of opinion, if ſuch a number of pariſhes were incorporated as ſhould bring into one houſe ſuch a number of poor people as might be governed, provided for, and employed, by *one ſet of officers*, that would be ſuch a houſe as would beſt anſwer all the intended purpoſes of a Work-houſe. In this reſpect, the caſe of a common boarding-ſchool ſeems to be a ſimilar thing. Beſides the maſter and miſtreſs, a boarding-ſchool requires a large houſe, and a number of aſſiſtants and ſervants, to carry it on: if there be only ten or a dozen boarders, the profit from theſe few will not anſwer the requiſite expence; but, if the number ſhould riſe to thirty or forty, perhaps the ſame number of aſſiſtants and ſervants will do for them all, and then the proprietor will find his account in it. In like manner, if a Work-houſe contains only twenty or thirty perſons, many of theſe very old, more of them very young, and ſome ſickly and diſeaſed, all of whom require attendance;

tendance; here muſt be a maſter and miſtreſs, to overlook and govern them; here muſt be perſons to bake, and brew, and waſh, and cook, and nurſe the ſick, and clean the houſe, &c. &c. and the expence of theſe officers and ſervants will eat up the ſavings of the houſe in other reſpects, and more: but, if the ſame number of officers and ſervants can take care of one hundred and fifty or two hundred perſons, then the ſavings from the houſe will be great; eſpecially if, out of ſuch a number, enough can be found to nurſe, and do the other buſineſs of the houſe, without hiring any foreign help, or but very little: which is really our caſe; for we hire only a *Baker*, and his wife who is the *cook*; all the reſt is done by the poor.

Theſe reaſons determined the late Admiral Vernon, who had the lead in this affair, and was the patron of it, to get the two ſmall hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, containing only twenty eight pariſhes, incorporated by act of Parliament; and his reſolution and indefatigable induſtry carried the thing through, notwithſtanding all the oppoſition which, from motives of various kinds, were made to it.

All the objections made to our ſcheme were trifling, except two. One was, that the perſons principally concerned would grow tired, and not give proper attendance; and the other, which would indeed be a probable conſequence of their non-attendance, was, that it would end in a moſt iniquitous

iniquitous jobb. In forming the government of our houſe, due attention was given to both objections.

To make the attendance eaſy, excepting the quarterly meetings, no perſon is neceſſarily required to attend oftener than on every Monday in ſome calendar month; then to be at the houſe only two hours, between eleven and one. Now, as the attendance is ſo eaſy, we may reaſonably expect that it will be complied with; eſpecially, as it will always be the intereſt of the perſons whoſe attendance is wanted, that this affair ſhould ſucceed well. To guard againſt frauds and jobbs, all conſiderable contracts are made at the quarterly meetings, in the moſt public manner. No money is paid by the treaſurer but by order of a quarterly meeting, or by warrant under the hands of the directors and acting guardians in a quarterly meeting, or in a weekly committee, aſſembled: and at theſe general quarterly meetings all the accounts of the preceding quarter are ſtated and ſettled, and the vouchers examined and compared with them. And, foraſmuch as many perſons pay to the rates who are not concerned in the management of the poor, theſe accounts, ſo ſtated, and ſigned by the members of the general quarterly meetings, are referred to his Majeſty's court of quarter-ſeſſions, there to be finally allowed and confirmed: and here, if any man can ſuggeſt fraud or miſmanagement, before ſuch final allow-

ance and confirmation, he may be heard. What better care could be taken to prevent jobbs? For the reſt, as the ſtatute by which we were incorporated is a public act, be pleaſed to be referred to that.

But, notwithſtanding all our care and caution, we were told, and made to hear it with both ears, that a project might ſeem plauſible enough upon paper, and yet be impracticable; that difficulties might ariſe, which could not be foreſeen; and then all the expence would be thrown away, and hang as a dead weight upon theſe two hundreds as long as the world ſhall laſt. We were determined, however, to try it: we have tried it; and, as we do admit that no arguments are in theſe matters ſo convincing as thoſe that are founded upon experience, we come now to acquaint the public with the ſucceſs we have had. But, before I mention the particular ſavings that have been made, in juſtice to ourſelves, and to the ſubject, I muſt firſt mention ſome circumſtances which have prevented us from ſaving ſo much as we ſhould otherwiſe have done.

Firſt, When the poor came into the houſe at Eaſter, 1758, proviſions were exceſſively dear: wheat ſold at 54*s.* and 56*s.* by the quarter; * and the prices of other things do generally bear ſome proportion to the price of that. This increaſed our

* At Michaelmas, 1772, in the Gazette, the average price of wheat at Ipſwich was 6*s.* per buſhel of eight gallons, or 48*s.* per quarter.

our expences two ways: it coſt us more to maintain the poor; and it forced many into the houſe, who otherwiſe would not have come: for, though above one hundred and eighty were firſt brought to us, ſince we have been ſettled our numbers have generally ſtood from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and fifty, or thereabouts. We have now one hundred and fifty-four in the houſe; but ſometimes the number is under one hundred and thirty; nay, at one time, it was under one hundred and twenty for ſeveral weeks: from whence I would obſerve, by the way, that our incorporated diſtrict is rather *too ſmall*; for, as we can receive and provide for two hundred with the ſame help we now have, had we a few more pariſhes, or had theſe incorporated pariſhes been larger, our income would of courſe have been larger, and the ſaving would appear greater.

Secondly, The poor came to us in a moſt miſerable and filthy condition: they were cloathed in rags; and ſome of them, the children eſpecially, almoſt literally naked. We expected, and were prepared for this; ſo that, to prevent the introduction of vermin, before they were admitted they were ſhaved, and cleanſed thoroughly by waſhing in warm water, and then *all new-cloathed* throughout, from head to foot. This was a large expence that year.

Thirdly, Another diſadvantageous circumſtance is, that the ſmall-pox has been very rife in Ipſ-

wich, from whence it has often been communicated to different parts of the two hundreds; and, as we cannot bring theſe people to the houſe, they are very expenſive, inſomuch that it hath coſt us more than 200*l.* for our patients in that diſtemper only.

Fourthly, But the greateſt extraordinary expence has been in rearing up a manufactory of hempen-cloth and twine-ſpinning; for, as all our hands were to be taught, their earnings for a conſiderable time could be but ſmall, and their waſte muſt be great. We were obliged to hire people to inſtruct the children at a large expence; and if to this we add the extraordinary high price of hemp, occaſioned by the war, which has riſen from 26 to 33 and 34*l.* a ton, you will eaſily believe our profits from the trade to have been but trifling: hitherto we have done little more than got paid for our labour. But, notwithſtanding all our diſadvantages, we have now the pleaſure of laying before the public this General Account of the Nacton Workhouſe, from Eaſter, 1758, to Michaelmas, 1762, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
Expended in building and furniſhniſhing the houſe before the poor came in, —— ——	3953	2	3
Ditto, ſince the poor came in, with other extraordinary articles, —	735	5	3
	£ 4688	7	6

Brought

Brought over,	£ 4688	7	6
Ditto, for the allowance of the accompts and rates at the quarter-ſeſſions, —— ——	59	13	5
Ditto, for the intereſt of the principal debt, —— ——	845	0	10
Repaid part of the principal debt,	500	0	0
Stock in hand of goods manufactured and unmanufactured not ſold, or, if ſold, not paid for, —	800	0	0
	6893	1	9
The principal ſum borrowed upon intereſt was —— ——	4800	0	0
So that, as theſe pariſhes have paid no more ſince the poor have been in the houſe, than they paid one year with another upon an average of ſeven years before they were taken in, it is evident the poor of theſe two hundreds have been maintained cheaper ſince Eaſter, 1758, than they were before, to the amount of at leaſt —	2093	1	9

If any gentlemen are diſpoſed to follow this example, they may greatly avail themſelves of our experience; and this account is chiefly given for their ſatisfaction. I had alſo another reaſon for it, which is, that the farmers in theſe two incorporated

rated hundreds may be brought to have a better opinion of this ſcheme: for though they have been told, and many of them have been weak enough to believe, that they ſhould always be obliged to pay the ſame ſum they do now, from this account the contrary is evident; for, within the courſe of a few years, (barring ſuch accidents as no man can foreſee) the debt will be cleared, and then the rates will not be above half of what they are. It is therefore their intereſt to prevent all unneceſſary expence as much as they can; and to encourage the manufactory, by buying their ſacks, &c. at the houſe.

Extract of a LETTER *from* Ipſwich, *Nov.* 3, 1763.

IN my laſt, of the 7th of December, 1762, you had a full account of the Houſe of Induſtry at Nacton, in Suffolk; and with it a general account of the ſucceſs which attended that undertaking to Michaelmas, 1762. Here is the ſtate of it for the laſt year, from Michaelmas, 1762, to Michaelmas, 1763.

By the laſt account it appeared, that, ſince Eaſter, 1758, when the poor were firſt taken into the houſe, they had been maintained there, not only better, but cheaper, than they were before,

	l.	s.	d.
fore, by at leaſt the ſum of —	2093	1	9
During the courſe of laſt year we have paid, for having our accompts and rates allowed at the quarter ſeſſions, —— ——	13	9	0
Paid intereſt of the principal debt,	158	6	0
Repaid part of the principal debt,	400	0	0
So that, in this way of providing for the poor, the ſaving, ſince Eaſter, 1758, to Michaelmas, 1763, amounts to no leſs than the ſum of —— ——	2664	16	9
The original ſum borrowed for this undertaking was —— —— £	4800	0	0
We have paid off —— ——	900	0	0
So the remaining debt, due at Michaelmas, is — —— £	3900	0	0

I have the pleaſure to add, that four, if not five, other hundreds in this county, have prepared petitions for parliament, in order to get incorporated as the hundreds of Colneis and Carlford are.

Extract

Extract of a LETTER, dated October 21, 1771.

An Account of the Induſtry Houſes near Ipſwich, *in* Suffolk; *with Reaſons for making the like Eſtabliſhments, by Act of Parliament, over the whole Kingdom.*

I WENT from Ipſwich to Nacton, merely on purpoſe to view the Houſe of Induſtry there. It is a large, irregular building; the diſpoſition of the apartments does not ſeem very well contrived for convenience. The original ſum raiſed for the building and furniſhing it was 4800*l.* the average of the laſt ſeven years rates over the hundred was taken, and produced 1475*l.* a year. They have generally from one hundred and twenty to two hundred poor in the houſe; at preſent, one hundred and forty four. They earn upon an average 250*l.* a year, which makes the income of the houſe 1725*l.* a year. This had been conſiderable enough to enable the truſtees to pay off 1200*l.* of the debt; and it has been erected but twelve years.

It ſtands on an high, airy ſituation, a healthy ſpot; and the whole appears to be kept in a very clean and wholeſome manner. There are various apartments for men with their wives; for ſingle men, and lads; and alſo for ſingle women, and girls; for the ſick, &c. and a ſurgery. There

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are likewiſe proper rooms for the different manufactures carried on, ſuch as ſpinning, weaving, making twine, making ſacks; and alſo offices for baking, brewing, &c. with proper rooms, and an apartment for the governor of the houſe, and for the truſtees to meet in: the whole open to the view of any perſon that comes to ſee them, and alſo all the proviſions with which the poor are fed. They are undoubtedly taken excellent care of, both ſick and well. The following is a table of their diet.

SUNDAY.

BREAKFAST, Bread and cheeſe, butter and milk.
DINNER, Beef and dumplings, pudding, and mutton for the ſick.
SUPPER, Bread and cheeſe, and butter; and milk for their ſupper every day in the week.

MONDAY.

BREAKFAST, Beef-broth.
DINNER, Baked ſuet-pudding.

TUESDAY.

BREAKFAST, Milk-broth in winter; milk in ſummer.
DINNER, Beef and dumplings.

WEDNESDAY.

BREAKFAST, Beef-broth.
DINNER, Rice-milk, or broth, &c.

THURSDAY.

BREAKFAST, Milk in ſummer; milk-broth in winter.

DINNER, Beef and dumplings.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY.

BREAKFAST, Meat-broth.

DINNER, Bread and butter.

Peaſe porridge uſed to be the dinner in the two laſt days; but they petitioned for bread and butter inſtead of it, which is found their favourite dinner, becauſe they have tea to it. I expreſſed ſurprize at this being allowed; but they ſaid they were permitted to ſpend two pence in the ſhilling of what they earned as they pleaſe, and they laid it all out in tea and ſugar, to drink with their bread and butter dinner. Indulgence renders it neceſſary to let them do as they pleaſe with it; but it would be better expended in ſomething elſe.

Whatever they eat is perfectly good of the kind; the beſt wheat; none but Warwickſhire cheeſe; the beſt beef; and every article the ſame: no neighbouring poor live near ſo well in their own cottages; and not one little farmer in ten. They are cloathed in a warm comfortable manner, and are in general pretty well ſatisfied with their ſituation; but the confinement diſguſts them: they are not allowed conſtant liberty without the yards, (which indeed would be impoſſible) and this they diſlike.

diſlike. A ſurgeon attends twice a week regularly; and oftener, if neceſſary. The grand points in the eſtabliſhment are, the poor being better taken care of than in the old parochial method, and at the ſame time a ſaving of 100*l.* a year made. Theſe two points are thoſe principally to be attended to in any diſcuſſion of the merit of theſe eſtabliſhments, becauſe it is impoſſible they ſhould unite without exceedingly beneficial conſequences flowing from them. That the poor of all ſorts are taken the utmoſt care of is a fact indiſputable, clear to the eyes of every ſtranger, as well as thoroughly known to every perſon in this neighbourhood. There remains a debt of 3600*l.* which will all be paid off ſooner than may at firſt be imagined. If they paid off 100*l.* a year, while they had the intereſt of 4800*l.* to diſcharge; now they have only the intereſt of 3600*l.* to pay, they conſequently liquidate 148*l.* a year, which in the next ten years will reduce the debt to 2120*l.* The ten years following they will in the ſame proportion diſcharge 208*l.* a year, which will clear the remaining debt in eleven years: ſo that the ſum total will be paid off in thirty-three years from building the houſe. Then (and not till then) they lower rates. The total income is 1725*l.* a year, which enabled them, after maintaining their poor, to pay 192*l.* a year in intereſt, and 100*l.* in diſcharge of debt; in all, 292*l.* a year. They receive from the pariſhes in rates 1475*l.* a year;

conſequently they can then immediately ſink this ſum 292*l.* which reduces it to 1183*l.* which reduction amounts to a fifth. And this ſeems the ultimate degree of benefit in reſpect of lowering rates; and a matter of importance it is, when we conſider that it is gained by the ſame meaſure which adds ſo much to the advantage of the poor. But there are four or five other Houſes of Induſtry in this county, and one in Norfolk; ſome of which, I find, have made vaſtly greater ſavings, even to the diſcharging more than half their debt in ten or twelve years: ſuch houſes will in the end, and ſpeedily too, ſink the rates much more conſiderably. Boſmere and Claydon hundreds have only one, of five years ſtanding. They borrowed 10,000*l.* the rates amount to 2526*l.* annually; and the earnings, 400*l.* a year; total income 2926*l.* In theſe five years they have paid off 1400*l.* which has reduced the debt to 8600*l.*

In five years more they will pay off the ſame — ——	£ 1400	
Alſo the deduction of intereſt	280	£ 1680
The debt will therefore, in ten years from the firſt eſtabliſhment, be reduced to		6920
In five years more the ſame payment will be made ——	£ 1400	
Alſo deduction from intereſt —	620	2020
The debt, in fifteen years from the firſt eſtabliſhment, will be reduced to ——		4900

Brought

Brought over, ——	——	£ 4900
In five years more ——	£ 1400	
Deduction from intereſt ——	1020	2420
In twenty years reduced to	——	2480
In five years more ——	£ 1400	
Alſo the deduction of intereſt	1500	2900

In twenty-five years the whole debt paid; and, as they paid at firſt 400*l.* a year in intereſt, and 280*l.* in diſcharge of debt, together 680*l.* a year, the proportion of that ſum to 2926*l.* is the proportion in which the rates will be lowered. It is near a fourth.

It may be aſked, How can theſe eſtabliſhments be beneficial to the poor, while they leſſen the expences ſo much? I reply, In two ways. Firſt, in going cheaper to work with every thing than pariſh-officers can, who have not the ſame advantages: weekly allowances in the pariſh muſt be given in proportion to the abilities of the poor to gain what they want: diets of all ſorts, firing, cloaths, &c. are all procured by them at the deareſt rate; if they buy cheeſe, it is by the pound, candles ſingle, ſoap half a pound; and, as they have them from the moſt paltry of all ſhops, they conſequently pay at an extravagant rate for the worſt commodities: this runs through their whole expenditure; they muſt neceſſarily be paid by the pariſh ſufficiently to enable them to ſupport all theſe diſadvantages. This is very different at the Hundred Houſe: advertiſements are generally

generally inſerted in the Ipſwich Journal, when any commodity is wanted, that the truſtees will meet at ſuch a day, receive propoſals, and view ſamples of ſuch and ſuch commodities. Every thing is bought in the great, and paid for at once: no private family lives ſo cheap. In the article of firing, what a vaſt difference between buying by the faggot, for various miſerable fires, and an union of them into ſhip-loads of coals! Houſe-rent in the pariſhes was a moſt heavy article; but in what proportion to the rent of the Hundred Houſe cannot be aſcertained. The difference in the expence of ſurgery and medicine muſt be immenſe.—The ſecond means of ſaving is this. The Hundred Houſe pays no weekly allowances in the pariſhes: whoever wants aſſiſtance muſt go to the Houſe, unleſs they are really unable. This at once ſtrikes off a very great expence; for, in all pariſhes that have no Work-houſes, numbers of the poor, through clamour, or weakneſs of juſtices of the peace, obtain allowances, that would not ſtir from their cottages for twice the ſum: all ſuch are cut off; beſides the numbers that betake themſelves to a more induſtrious life, in order to keep at home in their pariſhes, all having a ſtronger inclination for that than to go away. Theſe, I think, are two very powerful reaſons for the expence being lowered; and, in addition to them, the ſuperior earnings ought certainly to be mentioned. But, in reſpect to the general good,

it

it is evident, that theſe houſes tend ſtrongly to reduce poor's rates, and partly by creating a new induſtry. Are not theſe objects of infinite importance? Are they not the remedy of thoſe evils, whoſe enormity has been the ſubject of complaint for ſo many years throughout the kingdom? Is it not therefore greatly incumbent on Parliament to render univerſal eſtabliſhments that have been long experienced to work ſuch good effects? It is much to be wiſhed that they were made general. I made the requiſite enquiries into the objections againſt them; and I found but few of any conſequence.—Firſt, The farmers complain, that, where poor rates are lowered by them, the landlords take advantage of it, and raiſe their rents in proportion. I reply, So much the better: who of common ſenſe ſuppoſed it a contrivance to put money in the pockets of farmers? If rates are lowered, it ought to be the gentleman's advantage; for his eſtate always lets in exact proportion to the height of rates; and if he can let land, that is worth 20*s.* an acre, for only 16*s.* on account of heavy rates, ſurely, he ought to have the benefit of raiſing, when he has ſo long laboured under the evil of ſinking? But the farmers are piqued in many hundreds, and will never agree to the meaſure.—Secondly, It depopulates a hundred; for, the poor not liking the houſe, the ſervants let themſelves in other hundreds. This objection exiſts merely while the eſtabliſhment is local;

local; make it univerſal, and it ceaſes at once. The reality of the matter was, however, expreſsly contradicted to me by perſons on whom I can well depend. They aſſured me, that they felt no ſuch evil. Thirdly, The acts of Parliament, which eſtabliſhed the houſes, being extremely various, and yet public acts, they may be very troubleſome to lawyers in any future pleading on them. One act might comprehend the whole kingdom: there is no neceſſity for every hundred to have a diſtinct act. But ſuppoſe the caſe; let the gentlemen take ſo much the greater pains. Thoſe, who are ſo ready with abridgements in five hundred folios, may juſt as well turn over five thouſand. Fourthly, Gentlemen will not attend the truſt: it then becomes a jobb in the hands of the farmers and tradeſmen. This objection holds equally againſt all public works executed by commiſſioners, ſuch as turnpikes, drainages, navigations, harbours, &c. It is too difficult a thing to force people to do their duty; and yet we find the works performed. Many are careful enough to attend; ſome will not, and then evils may ariſe which force them to it: but in ſome way or other the buſineſs is done without any flagrant or ſtriking impoſitions. Thus it would be with Houſes of Induſtry: ſome have been erected theſe twelve years; and yet I could not find that any miſchiefs had ariſen from want of attendance; making ſuch a progreſs in paying off the debt does not carry that

appearance.

appearance. Upon the whole, the objections that have been made to theſe eſtabliſhments are by no means ſolid: but, ſuppoſing they were, are we to enjoy none of the benefits of improvement becauſe objections are ſtarted? What good is gained without its attendant evil? Make a navigation, you waſte land to convert it into water; and you cut through people's property. Make a turnpike, you tax the whole country. If you will execute no improvement but what may be performed without the leaſt objection, you for ever tie your hands from doing good. Compare the advantages with the inconveniences; view the ſcale; and then determine. It ſhould be the buſineſs of cavillers alone to ſtart objections that will not united, overturn the benefit propoſed. "For a "nation to conduct it by ſuch ideas, is to revolve "into the barbariſm of the darkeſt ages."

Extract of a LETTER *from* Ipſwich, *Dec.* 12, 1772.

SINCE the year 1763, the directors in the hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, from various accidents, chiefly a very large expence in two years, occaſioned by the ſmall-pox, which raged throughout thoſe hundreds, have been obliged to borrow 400*l.* which increaſed their principal

debt to ——— ——— ———	£ 5200
Yet they have been enabled to pay off of this debt ——— —— ———	1600
Which reduces it to —— ——	3600

Nacton Houſe has paid for intereſt upwards of 2000*l.* This Nacton Houſe was the firſt of the kind: and it has appeared ſince, that this incorporated diſtrict is rather too ſmall; and their annual income is too low, for it is no more than 1487*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* and they have ſometimes had two hundred poor people in their houſe, never fewer than one hundred and twenty; but the uſual number, one time with another, is about one hundred and fifty. And, indeed, as the price of proviſions of all kinds hath riſen ſo extravagantly of late years, it is ſurpriſing that this Hundred Houſe hath done ſo well; for the dearneſs of proviſions increaſes the expence of theſe houſes two ways; it drives more people into the houſe than would otherwiſe have come to it; and it coſts more to maintain them when there.

We have ſeven other Houſes in this country erected upon the ſame plan: I am concerned in one of them, in the hundred of Samford, which is contiguous to this town, on the other ſide of the Orwell, oppoſite to Colneis hundred. Here we have the ſame number of pariſhes, twenty-eight. But theſe pariſhes are larger, and the country

country more populous, and better cultivated. This undertaking therefore is larger. Our income is better than 2250*l.* per ann. and our original debt was —— —— £ 8250

And, though we pay four and a half per cent. for our money, we have kept down our intereſt, which amounts to upwards of 2000*l.* and have paid off part of our debt, —— —— 1350

Which reduces it to —— —— 6900

And yet the poor were taken into the houſe only at Michaelmas, 1768; ſo that they have been in the houſe only four years; and this notwithſtanding the high price of proviſions. What is here mentioned is the *apparent* ſavings; but, to eſtimate the true and real ſaving of theſe houſes, another conſideration ſhould be taken in, viz. What would have been the expence of the poor's rates in theſe hundreds, had there been no hundred houſes? Several of the principal farmers in ſome of theſe pariſhes have owned to me, that their *reſpective pariſhes* have ſaved more than 100*l.* per. annum by having the hundred houſe. And you will the rather believe this, when I tell you that the rates hereabouts were increaſing ſo faſt, that, in one pariſh, the expences of the ſeventh year immediately preceding the incorporation was *double* the expence of the firſt of thoſe ſeven years.

When

When I ſaw Mr. Hanway's book about the mortality of young children in the pariſh work-houſes in London, I had the curioſity to enquire what our ſucceſs had been in that matter at the Nacton houſe, and had the ſatisfaction to find it to be as under mentioned. This I mention as a further encouragement. It is difficult upon general queſtions to give a ſatisfactory account of ſuch things as theſe, unleſs it were much to exceed the bounds of a letter; but I ſhall be ready to anſwer any particular queſtions you may like to have reſolved, and am, &c.

Born in the Houſe, or admitted under three months old, ———	40	of whom died 14	were diſcharged 13	were then living 13
Admitted under one year old, ———	14	7	3	4
Under two years,	19	3	5	11
Under three years,	21	6	7	8
Under four years,	31	5	10	16
Under five years,	17	3	8	6
	142	38	46	58

FINIS.